

PLAN YOUR QUESTIONS BEFORE YOUR OFFICE VISIT

with

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These are sets of questions you might consider before you come to your office visit. Please click on the reason for your office visit. If you are not certain, you should probably skim over all the questions.

You want guidance on breast health, screening to know your breasts are okay or if there is an area to be worried about, and/ or to understand your personal risk of getting breast cancer.

Questions to ask if you seek general advice about your breast health or risk of breast cancer.

Why do I need a breast examination if I do my own breast self-examination?

Did you do a thorough examination of my breasts?

Did you find anything on my examination?

If you find anything, how can I be certain it is not cancer?

Do I need a mammogram?

Is the radiation in the mammogram dangerous?

Is my mammogram being done correctly?

Can't I just have a sonogram or MRI?

Will breast self-examination (BSE) help me?

How should I do BSE?

Am I at high risk for breast cancer?

Will genetic testing help me know if I am at high risk?

If I am at high risk, what can I do about it?

Should I take tamoxifen or another drug to prevent breast cancer?

Will I reduce my risk of breast cancer if I change what I eat?

Can I take birth control pills?

Can I take hormone replacement at menopause without increasing my risk of breast cancer?

You have an area of concern that can be felt by palpation or seen on a mammogram, and you want to know what it is.

Questions to ask if you need help diagnosing a specific area in your breast.

Do I have a lump or other suspicious area?

What does my physician or examiner mean if she or he says that an area is fibrocystic?

Will a mammogram help diagnose the lump I feel?

How can I find out what caused an area the radiologist spotted on my mammogram?

Is it normal to have breast discharge?

Should I worry about my breast discharge?

Should I be concerned about the pains I feel in my breast?

Do we need to treat the pain in my breasts?

What can I do about the pains I get in my breasts?

Will a mammogram help diagnose my pain?

Do I need a biopsy?

What kinds of biopsies are there?

Can I have a cyst aspiration?

Can I have a fine needle aspiration biopsy for my lump?

Who is qualified to do a fine needle aspiration?

Can I have a core biopsy of my breast?

Do I need a surgical biopsy?

If I have had a biopsy that is not cancer, am I now more likely to get cancer in the future?

If you think it is OK, how can you be certain?

What should I do next?

A biopsy has identified cancer (or other worrisome area), and you need to make a plan for treatment.

Questions to ask if you have been diagnosed with breast cancer, or other breast disease, and need to plan treatment.

Will I die from my breast cancer?

What kind of cancer do I have?

What are the types of in situ cancer?

Is ductal carcinoma in situ pre-cancer or early cancer?

How dangerous is my DCIS?

What are the types of invasive cancer?

How big is my cancer?

Where is my cancer located at this time?

What grade is my cancer?

Does my cancer have hormone receptors?

How fast is my cancer growing?

Does my cancer over express her2/neu?

Do I need surgery?

If I need surgery, how much tissue really should be removed from my breast?

How does a surgeon know how much tissue to remove?

What are margins?

Do I need tests before surgery?

Do I need to have lymph nodes removed?

How many nodes should I have removed?

Is there a benefit in removing my nodes?

Do I need radiation therapy if I have a mastectomy?

Do I need adjuvant therapy?

Do I need chemotherapy?

What are the side effects of chemotherapy?

Do I need hormone therapy?

What are the side effects of hormone therapy?

Should I use both chemotherapy and hormone therapy?

What do I say to my children?

Can I take hormones or birth control pills ever again?

Can I have a baby?

What should my daughter, sister, mother do?

What should I do when I leave your office?

Would a therapist be helpful?

What should I do next week, next month, next year?

Who will take care of me next? What are their qualifications?